

City of Cambridge - Recycling Advisory Committee
February 11, 2010 - Meeting Minutes Taken by Lisa McMenemy

Members Attending: Kevin Douglas, F.W Russell & Sons; Rob Gogan, Harvard University; Ryan Gray, MIT; Randi Mail, Recycling Director; Lisa McMenemy, Casella Recycling; Judy Nathans, Cambridge resident; Laura Nichols, Cambridge Consumers Council; Andrea Yonge, Casella Recycling

Guests Attending: Meryl Brott, Recycling Program Manager

Market Update

Lisa McMenemy shared Casella's market update. Newspaper still selling strong at \$90/ton levels domestically and \$100+/ton overseas, demand expected to remain high. Volumes typically begin to trend backwards in February past the holidays. Cardboard rose \$30/ton. Plastics have stabilized with HDPE (milk jugs) selling at \$400/ton and both HDPE Color and PET selling at the \$250/ton range. Good pricing but not near the pricing of last summer. Tin rose to \$170/ton from \$100/ton, due to supply and demand. Aluminum rose to \$1200/ton up from \$1000/ton in January. Both good signs the economy is starting to rebound.

Casella is now making bales of pure #3-7's plastics. With their new "Zero-sort" aka single stream contracts, communities may accept pizza boxes and rigid plastics, such as laundry baskets and toys. The facility is now processing 750 tons/day of which 400 are Zero-sort tons from Boston, Everett, Revere, Arlington, etc.

As this was Andrea's last meeting before moving to Chicago, the Committee thanked her for her valuable contributions and wished her good luck.

City Updates

As reported in December, the City received price proposals for curbside single stream recycling and separate yard waste collection from Russell, Casella, Waste Management and Capitol Waste; for processing from Casella and Waste Management; for public area recycling from Metro Pedal Power and for yard waste only from Save That Stuff. With single stream, the City plans to provide recycling totes to residences with 1-5 units and is discussing ways to fund this large capital purchase, would will require City Council approval. The City is also considering processing proposals regarding revenue for single stream, which are considerably different than dual stream.

Rob Gogan asked about RecycleBank. Randi said that DPW has met with them to review one proposal and is waiting for another. In the original proposal, the annual cost to the City would be roughly \$200,000 annually. RecycleBank typically shares the avoided disposal savings that result from increased recycling tonnage. This gets complicated in Cambridge, since about 9,000 households receive private trash collection and the City does not save avoided disposal fees for these reduced tons.

Given the considerable investment for totes with single stream, the RecycleBank program is difficult to consider. The totes purchased will likely have RFID tags to be compatible with RecycleBank if implemented at a later date. DPW has decided that it is important to understand and isolate the tonnage increases from implementing single stream. Currently, the City recycles between 7000-8,000 tons of curbside recyclables (paper, cardboard and bottles/cans). With single stream, DPW projects that this could increase to 10,000 tons. Recyclebank has suggested that their program could increase curbside recyclables to 12,000 tons.

School Recycling Update

Randi told the committee that school recycling has improved considerably in the last few years with top level support from the School Department, including Jim Maloney, Chief Operating Officer and Dana Ham, Director of Facilities. With Jim and Dana, Meryl met with all custodians in November to review recycling procedures and field questions. The schools continue to reporting their weekly recycling to DPW and we have seen improvement in this area. For the last several months, Dana Ham has forwarded the report Meryl develops, to school administrators.

Meryl presented current school recycling data with total tons recycled and pounds per student. Again, these figures are based on the weekly recycling that each school needs to report to DPW. In January, based on total pounds per student 13 lbs per student was the average, high 23.4 and low 2.2. The ranking in January is:

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|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Kennedy-Longfellow | 5. King Open | 9. Haggerty | 13. CRLS |
| 2. Tobin | 6. King Amigos | 10. Peabody | |
| 3. Fletcher Maynard | 7. Cambridgeport | 11. Morse | |
| 4. Graham & Parks | 8. Baldwin | 12. CRLS 9 th Grade | |

The RecycleCraze paper and cardboard recycling contest between the Cambridge public schools started Feb 1st and continues through May, see the [blog post on Chalkboard Chatter](#). The top two schools with the most recycling per student will receive trophies and citywide publicity. To get schools engaged in RecycleCraze, Meryl developed a poster of Superintendent Jeff Young recycling with a group of students, which is being promoted among the schools and schools are encouraged to tailor it.

MassDEP Update

Randi shared a recap of the recent Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting in January where discussion focused on the draft Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP), to be released for public comment soon. Commissioner Laurie Burt said the 2 main goals of SWMP are to maximize efficiency of materials use by building recycling and composting markets, and maximize environmental performance of solid waste facilities.

Her other main points on the SWMP:

1. MA to [keep the moratorium on new incinerators](#)
2. Expanding recycling and composting
3. Greater producer responsibility (electronics, expanded bottle bill, supply chain management) and
4. An estimated \$6-9 mil in grant funding (Sustainable Materials Recovery Program) will largely come from 50% of proceeds from the sale of Waste to Energy credits by certain existing incinerators to utilities through the Green Communities Act – grant application “soon”.

John Fischer of MassDEP also presented at the meeting. The top material targets of the SWMP are paper and organics, while he also mentioned metal, plastics, C&D (wood, wallboard, shingles).

He outlined 8 strategies of the SWMP:

1. MA needs to walk the walk (green building and fleet operations, employee behavior)
2. Market development (Start up funding for business grants and market development center)
3. Extended Producer Responsibility
 1. Electronics, EBB, Carpet, Ceiling tiles
 2. Plastic bags (Memorandum of Agreement with MA Food Association)
 3. Interstate collaboration with [Product Stewardship Institute](#)
 4. Supply chain management with packaging materials
4. Business / Institutional (Assistance coordinators for businesses by community or sector similar to the Municipal Assistance Coordinators)
5. Residential
 1. New grant program
 2. PAYT – increase to 50% of residents
 3. Regional initiatives
 4. Down the road: municipal performance grants (similar to MRIP payments)
 5. Web info / tools
 6. Targeted education campaign
6. Organics
7. C&D
8. Toxicity Reduction

Randi noted that the City called in support for [House Bill 4374](#), which would require producer responsibility for collection, reuse and recycling of discarded electronic products.